

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 were pending in the present application. Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by United States Patent 5,823,670 (Herbst).

The applicant mailed a Preliminary Amendment July 7, 2003 in which claims 7- 11 were added. Per a teleconference between the Examiner and Kristine Stefano, my assistant, on September 29, 2003, the preliminary amendment has been entered as of July 7, 2003 and the present claims 7-11 stand rejected on the same basis as claims 1-6.

Through this amendment claims 12 and 13 have been added. No new matter has been added to the application.

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Herbst. Through this amendment, claims 1 and 4 have been amended while claim 6 has been cancelled. In their present form, remaining claims 1-5 and 7-11 define subject matter that is not taught or suggested by Herbst.

The present invention of claims 1-3 and 7-11 is a reversible door having at least two edges and a mortise hole formed in at least one edge. Claims 1 and 11 presently recite mortise holes in both edges having a non-circular shape. Claims 7 and 8 recite mortise holes in both edges, the mortise holes having planar ends sides and rounded ends. Claim 9 recites a single non-circular boring hole in a door edge with at least one mortise lock having a profile that matches the boring and where the lock slidably mates with the boring. Claim 10 adds to claim 9 a second such boring hole.

The invention of claims 4 and 5 is method of forming a door having at least two edges with a mortise hole notch on two edges of the door. Claim 4 has been amended by adding the template previously recited in claim 6. The template is recited as having a fitting for engaging with the mortise hole notch is used to form further holes in the door.

Herbst discloses a molded plastic door that has mortised lock recesses 40 on each of two edges of a door. The Herbst door is made from "sheet molding compound" and is formed of two sheets that are joined together. The mortised lock recesses are rectangular in shape as viewed from the edges of the door (see Figure 12).

When compared, differences between the Herbst patent and the present claims are readily apparent. First, the Herbst patent does not teach, suggest or show a mortise notch having parallel

sides and a curved end. Second, the Herbst patent does not teach, suggest or show a template, or a template having a fitting for engaging with the mortise hole notch. Because there are significant differences between the teachings of the Herbst patent and the structure and steps in presently recited claims 1-5 and 7-11, the Herbst patent does not anticipate or suggest the present claims and the rejection is traversed.

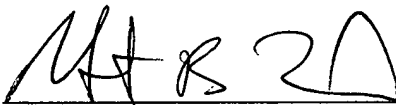
Further, new claims 12 and 13 recite structure and steps respectively that are also allowable over the prior art. Specifically, claim 12 adds further structure to claim 4 in that the holes recited in claim 4 must be non-circular. Claim 13 recites process steps for installing a reversible mortise door including the steps of forming first and second non-circular mortise notches having parallel sides and curved ends.

As noted above, Herbst discloses a molded plastic door that has mortised lock recesses 40 on each of two edges of a door. The mortised lock recesses are rectangular in shape as viewed from the edges of the door. Herbst does not teach the presently claimed structure and steps in claims 12 and 13 respectively, having holes with rounded ends formed in first and second edges of the door. Because such structure is not taught or suggested, claims 12 and 13 are allowable over the prior art.

Fees associated with the present amendment are identified and paid through another paper mailed herewith. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 06-0029 and is requested to notify us of the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

MARK E. ABDELLA et al.

By: 

Robert B. Leonard, #33,946
Special Counsel
FAEGRE & BENSON LLP
2200 Wells Fargo Center
90 South Seventh Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-3901
612/766-8578

Dated: October 8, 2003